

BA# 1640
Cliffholme
4040 Stewart Rd.
Stevenson, Md.
Private

c. 1848

Cliffholme is one of the earlier mansions in the district, purchased in 1868 not long after its initial construction in 1848, and extended atleast twice prior to massive early twentieth century alterations which completely changed its architectural style while retaining, recognizable its basic form. It was the family home of the Stewarts for many years and plays a significant part in the history of the Green Spring Valley.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA# 1640
x-873.830
y-556.030

MA# 0316402404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ^eCliffholme
^

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4040 Stewart Road

CITY, TOWN Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

CDNGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE Maryland

21153

COUNTY Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
— STRUCTURE
— SITE
— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS
— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
— UNOCCUPIED
— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED
— YES: UNRESTRICTED
— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE — MUSEUM
— COMMERCIAL — PARK
— EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— ENTERTAINMENT — RELIGIOUS
— GOVERNMENT — SCIENTIFIC
— INDUSTRIAL — TRANSPORTATION
— MILITARY — OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Fedderman

Telephone #: 363-0332

STREET & NUMBER

4040 Stewart Road

CITY, TOWN Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland zip code 21153

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 3653

Folio #: 560

STREET & NUMBER

Bosley Ave

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Md. 21204

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CLIFFEHOLME is a two and one-half storey house of stuccoed stone, its style recalling that of Tudor England, a style achieved by massive alterations ca. 1928-1935. Its principal facade is the southerly.

It was first built in ca. 1848 as a two and one-half storey house, five bays in length, traditional in style with 6/6 windows having louvred blinds. By 1895 an addition at its east end virtually repeated the original house, the addition's five-bay facade to the east, its steep end gables to the south and north. Each section had a steep pediment centered in its roof and all roofs projected beyond the walls below with eave and rake cornices supported by scrolled brackets. A one-storey porch extended across the south facade of the original section and a two-storey bay window projected from the south end of the east wing. A single dormer was on either side of the central pediment of the original section and two dormers were on either side of the central pediment of the east wing. Interior chimneys rose through the original roof, possibly four, their exact location unclear; a single interior chimney rose on either side of the central pediment of the east wing. The style of the enlarged structure was Italianate although the basic form of each section was traditional and simple.

Further to the east extended a flat-roofed one storey wing on a high basement above falling grade. Its tripartite windows, exterior window architraves, its rusticated basement storey, smooth principal storey, full classical cornice and balustrade surround all bespeak of a construction date in the 1890s, reflecting the emerging American Colonial-revival style. A bow window projected from its east facade.

In the early twentieth century alterations the porch was removed as was the central pediment above the original house and all of its wooden ornament. The south gable of the east wing was retained as was its bay window form; its central east pediment was extended as a gable roof over the former flat roof of the easterly extension and another gable roof was added at the east end, its ridge parallel to that of the first east wing. The east bow window was removed and a one and one-half storey wing was added

- 1 -

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

at the extreme west end. All windows were changed to casements with mullions and leaded sash. Chimneys were rebuilt with separate flues expressed above a stuccoed pedistal through the roof. A great mullioned window was added immediately above the principal entrance, itself deeply recessed beneath a Tudor arch.

The interior of this house was not accessible for inspection.

At the original north entrance to the property, along Green Spring Valley Road, is a pair of Egyptian-revival gateposts, probably original. Each post is a single piece of granite from Port Deposit or Ellicott City quarries, with a square shaft having parallel sides rising above a short pedistal at grade with beveled watertable; three incised lines are below a pyramidal top. Against the inner face of the pedistal is a semi-circular wheel guard and wrought-iron pintels project from the inner face of the shaft to receive gates, now missing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cliffholme is one of the earlier mansions in the district, purchased in 1868 not long after its initial 1848 construction and extended at least twice prior to massive early twentieth century alterations which completely changes its architectural style while retaining, recognizably its basic form. Its Italiante appearance prior to twentieth century Tudor alterations is well documented by a photograph (Dawn Thomas, THE GREEN SPRING VALLEY, 1978, Vol i Page 243). The Egyptian-revival gateposts along Green Spring Valley Road are probably original.

Mention the residence Cliffholme and most older Valley residents instantly reply; "The Stewart place". The house and the family appear inseparable and are tightly woven into the fabric of the Valley's history that would be most recent in the minds of the older generation.

Despite this instant family association, Cliffholme was actually built by another illustrious family -- the Howards. The builder was James Howard, son of Revolutionary War hero John Eager Howard and the great-grandson of Joshua Howard, one of the first settlers in the Valley area.

To retrace the history of this lovely home, one must go back to 1702 when 386 acres of the tract Green Spring Punch was surveyed for Thomas Bale. He willed the land to his sister Hannah (Bale) Randall, and at her death in 1727 the land went to her two children. Son Christopher received the 100 acres on which Cliffholme would be built one and a quarter centuries hence. It is not known whether Christopher Randall actually lived on this property or one of his other tracts in Baltimore County.

By 1763, this property, incorrectly recorded as "Green Spring Purchase" was in the possession of William Kelley (1715-1796). At his death the land passed to his son Joseph (1767-1822). On Feb 4, 1814] Kelley and his wife Rachel sold 98 acres of Green Spring Punch, 68 acres of The Adventure, and two other slips of land to Charles H. Appleton, a former native and merchant of Boston. He was one of the incorporators of the Savings Bank of Baltimore and an early advocate of the free school concept in Baltimore. After his death, his wife sold the 168 acres on June 19, 1832 to James Howard for \$10,000.²

James Howard (1797-1870) married Sophia Gough by whom he had four Children. On January 19, 1832, four years after his wife's death, he married Catherine Ross of Frederick. Five months later Howard bought the Valley property. It may be that his interest in living in this part

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of Baltimore County was aroused by the construction of the Green Spring branch of the Baltimore and Susquehannah Railroad, of which Howard was president from 1833 to 1835.³

Howard built Cliffholme about 1848 and by 1854 had acquired 325 acres when a description of the house was given in a Baltimore paper offering it for sale: "The mansion House was built of stone, and rough cast in the most substantial manner, about six years ago at a cost of near nine thousand dollars. It is 50 ft. square, two stories high, with an attic, having an ornamental porch extending along its entire front. A spacious hall divides the principal rooms on the first floor, consisting of a drawing room, two parlours, and dining room; on the second floor are nine chambers; the kitchen and servants rooms being in the basement; water is distributed through the entire building by pipes..."⁴

An 1850 map shows Howard as the owner of this property which was then valued at \$50,000. Catherine Howard died on Jan. 26, 1854 leaving their six children for James to raise. The house was offered for public auction five months later. Her death may explain why, in a deed dated 7 November 1854, nine and one half months after her death, Howard was described as a "Lunatic." This deed states that his trustees sold the Cliffholme estate to John W. Ross (probably Howard's brother-in-law).⁵

On April 26, 1859 Howard's trustees, "at the request of John W. Ross," conveyed 51½ acres of Green Spring Punch, or "the Cliffholme estate," to Richard Norris, Jr. trustee for Lydia C. Norris, wife of George W. Norris. In 1868, this same land was conveyed to Robert North Elder, who the same month sold 15 acres to Charles Morton Stewart and the remaining 36 to William H. Shipley. Stewart bought Shipley's land in 1872.

Charles Morton Stewart came from a prominent, distinguished family. His father was a successful lawyer who served briefly in the United States Senate: his grandfather was a Baltimore Merchant; his great-grandfather worked in the counting house of Brian Philpot and later became a director of two Baltimore based banks.

Stewart continued his family tradition. He owned a fleet of barkentines and engaged in the coffee trade with Brazil during the "golden age of the coffee fleet" from 1865 to 1900. He was highly respected by his fellow merchants. He and his family were regarded as cultivated, well traveled people whose Valley home was brimming with children, friends and distinguished guests.⁸

As the Stewart family expanded to eighteen children, it was necessary to make considerable alterations to Cliffholme. It became a long stretching house, 9 to 13 rooms on both floors and the basement.⁹

The Stewart children distinguished themselves in various careers and made contributions to the development of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, the Green Spring Hounds, and the Maryland Hunt Cup.¹⁰

Following the elder Stewart's unexpected death in 1900, his wife sold portions of the estate over a twenty year period. Her son Redmond Stewart and his wife sold Cliffholme and some twenty acres to Charles B. and Margaret S. Alexander in 1928. The new owner, from Charles Town, West Va. founded the Baltimore insurance brokerage firm of Alexander and Alexander. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Society of the Lees of Virginia. One of his sons Holmes M. was a playwright and author, whose book Between Stirrup and Ground is both an autobiography and a vivid picture of life in the Valley at the turn of the twentieth century.¹¹

It was Charles Alexander who gave Cliffholme its present form. A year after his death, his wife sold on December 30, 1959, the house and 12 acres to Reuben and Beatrice Fedderman, the present owners.¹²

Cliffeholme

Footnotes

¹

Patent Liber D. D. no. 5, fol. 77, Hall of Records (HR), Annapolis, Maryland; Baltimore County Wills (BCW), Liber A, fols. 97, 237, HR.

²

Assessment Book of Sheriff Aquila Hall, c. 1763/4, fol. 60, MS. 1565, Maryland Historical Society (MHS), Baltimore, Maryland; Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber W. G. no. 126, fols. 116, 125, Baltimore City Court House, Baltimore, Maryland; BCLR, Liber W. G. no. 128, fol. 178, Baltimore; Baltimore American (BACDA) and Commercial Daily Advertiser, 3 October 1831; and BCLR, Liber W. G. no. 219, fol. 62, Baltimore.

³

Baltimore American, 21 April 1828; BACDA, 24 January 1832; Dielman File, MHS; Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland and the District of Columbia (Baltimore: National Biographical Pub. Co., 1879), p. 355.

⁴

Baltimore County Advocate [Towson], 3 June 1854.

⁵

United States Census for Baltimore County, District One, 1850, fol. 415, MHS; BCLR, Liber H. M. F. no. 10, fol. 35, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.

⁶

BCLR, Libers G. H. C. no. 26, fol. 79, E. H. A. no. 59, fols. 33, 34, 59, and E. H. A. no. 75, fol. 500, Towson.

⁷

Who Was Who In America, Historical Volume, 1607-1898, 1st ed. rev. (Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co., 1967), p. 578; Dielman File, MHS; Baltimore American, 19 July 1799, and 10 May 1802;

Footnotes- cont.

H. H. Hayden, ed., The Reminiscences of David Hayfield Conyngham, 1750-1834 (n.p.), in "Robert Lee Randolph-His Family," MS. in possession of Robert Lee Randolph, Ruxton, Maryland; J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County, 2 vols. (1881; reprint ed., Baltimore: Regional Pub. Co., 1971), 1: 425, 455.

8
Carroll Dulaney, "The Stewart Barkentines," Baltimore News, no date, vertical file of newspaper clippings, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland; Ellinor Stewart Heiser, Days Gone By (Baltimore: Waverly Press, 1953), p. 1.

9
Ibid., pp. 1, 3.

10
Ibid., p. 16. For detailed information on members of the Stewart family refer to: Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978).

11
Dielman File, MHS; BCLR, Libers W. H. M. no. 654, fol. 182, and W. H. M. no. 662, fol. 301, Towson; "Charles B. Alexander ,82, Insurance Broker, Dies, Sun, 25 September 1958; Louis Azrael, "Louis Azrael Says: A Dim View of the 'ValleySet,'" Baltimore American, 26 November 1967; R. P. Harris, "Alexander's Book Captures Flavor of the Maryland Life, " Baltimore American, 18 March 1968.

12
"Charles B. Alexander, 82, Insurance Broker, Dies"; BCLR, Liber W. J. R., no. 3653, fol. 260, Towson.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

10

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE James T. Wollen AIA Dawn F. Thomas

ORGANIZATION Valleys Planning Council

DATE 5/80

STREET & NUMBER 212 Washington Ave,

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Towson Md. 21204

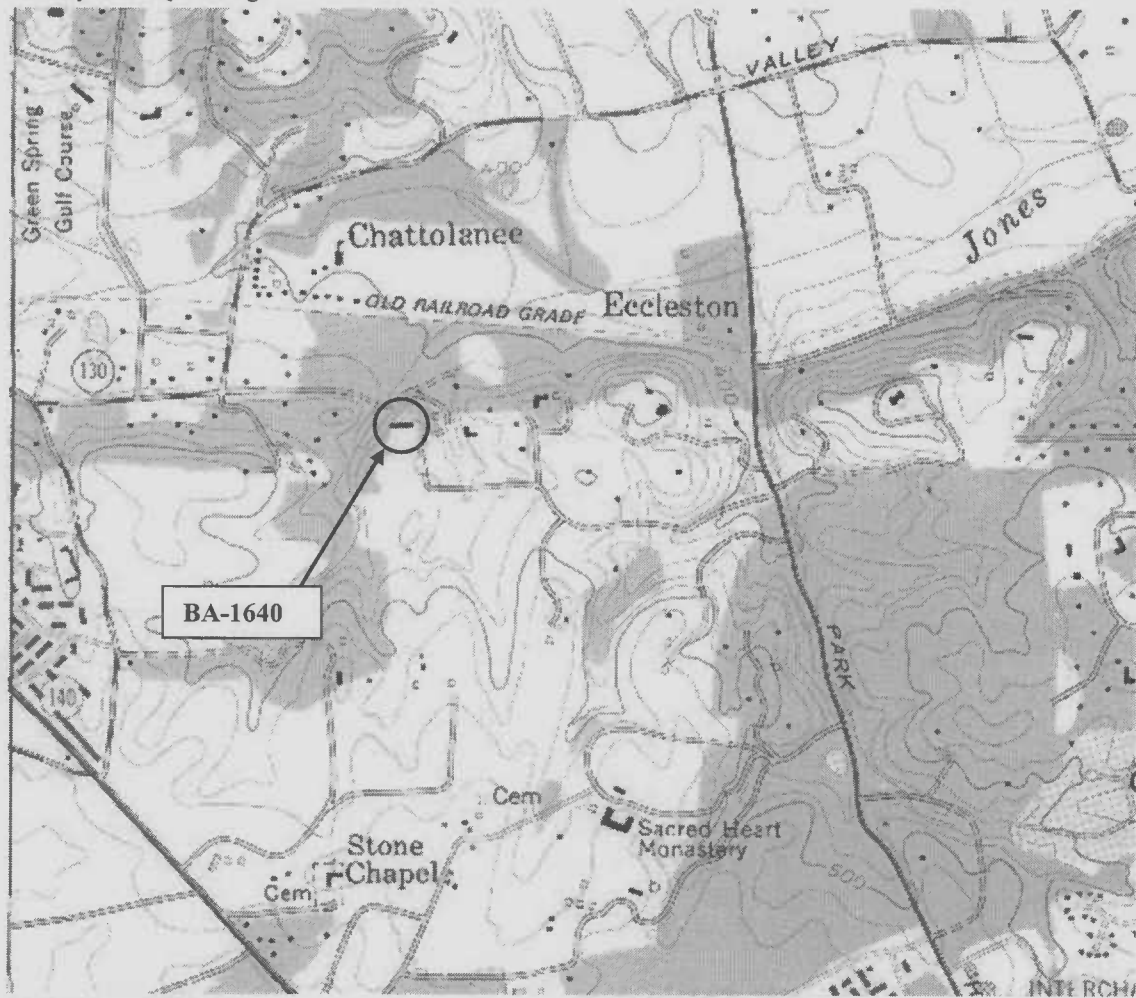
STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

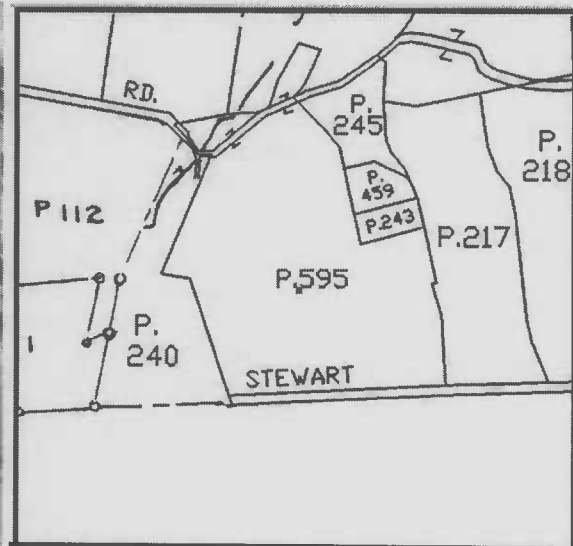
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

BA-1640
Cliffholme
4040 Stewart Road
Cockeysville Quadrangle



1993-95 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 68, p. 595



CLIFFEHOLME



Cliffeholme, South View, April 1895
 Collection of Mrs. Katherine Latimer (Small) Stewart

offering it for sale: "The Mansion House was built of stone, and rough cast in the most substantial manner, about six years ago at a cost of near nine thousand dollars. It is 50 feet square, two stories high, with an attic, having an ornamental porch extending along its entire front. A spacious central hall divides the principal rooms on the first floor, consisting of a drawing room, two parlours, and dining room; on the second floor are nine chambers; the kitchen and servants rooms being in the basement; water is distributed through the entire building by pipes, and a fine spring rises near to it."⁹

An 1850 map shows James Howard as the owner of this property valued at \$50,000. Living at Cliffeholme were James, his wife Catherine, and their children, Julia, Margaret, Nancy, William, James, Harry, and David. Catherine Howard died on 26 January 1854; the house was offered for public auction less than five months later. One cannot but speculate that the house held memories of his late wife and that James Howard could not bear to live there without her. Her death may also explain why, in a deed dated 7 November 1854, nine and one-half months after her death, he is described as "James Howard

CLIFFEHOLME



Cliffeholme Today



Finlagen



#1640 - Gates - 2-28
C. J. H. H. H. H.
JTD 1/16/14

BA-1640
Gates